

The Civil Rights Act of 1957 provides that the Commission must complete its work and make a final report to the President and the Congress not later than two years from its enactment on September 9, 1957.

But it was not until May 14 -- eight months later -- that the Staff Director's appointment was approved by the Senate, and the important work of building an effective organization begun.



The Commission is grateful for the recognition of its usefulness in the field of Civil Rights so generously expressed by the Administration, by members of the Congress, and by private citizens.

In his recommendations to the Congress on February 5, 1959, the President asked that the Commission on Civil Rights be continued for two more years and make "an interim report this year within the time originally fixed by law for the making of its final report."

The Commission will undertake faithfully to discharge any new responsibilities it may be given. At the same time it is convinced that it can and should accomplish the mission originally undertaken by completing the limited studies and investigations already initiated in the fields of Voting, Housing, and Education, and report its findings and recommendations to the President and the Congress no later than September 9, 1959.